

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 14470 091405Z

41

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 SP-03 PRS-01 USSS-00

SY-04 CPR-02 FBIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6576

S E C R E T BANGKOK 14470

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, TH

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR HIGH LEVEL APPOINTMENTS FOR THAI FOREIGN MINISTER

FOR HABIB FROM KINTNER

REF: (A) STATE 170108

(B) BANGKOK 12817

1. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT AMBASSADOR ANAN WILL REQUEST APPOINTMENTS IN WASHINGTON FOR FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN WITH WASHINGTON OFFICIALS "FROM THE WHITE HOUSE ON DOWN" DURING THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES FOR THE UNGA. PRACHA KUNAKASEM, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INFORMATION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WHO WILL ACCOMPANY THE FOREIGN MINISTER, SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO CALLS ON THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY, THE FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO WISHES TO MEET WITH YOU. IF CALL ON THE PRESIDENT IS ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE, THEN IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT CHARUNPHAN SEE VICE PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE. PRACHA ASKED MY ASSISTANCE IN FACILITATING THESE CALLS, WHICH ARE TO BE FORMALLY REQUESTED BY AMBASSADOR ANAN.

2. PRIOR TO ANY APPROACH BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON THIS SUBJECT, I WROTE TO PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR JOHN MARSH ON AUGUST 13 ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A COURTESY CALL ON THE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BANGKO 14470 091405Z

PRESIDENT FOR CHARUNPHAN AND SEATO SECRETARY GENERAL

SUNTHORN. I ALSO WROTE TO LARRY EAGLEBURGER ON AUGUST 9 PROPOSING THAT THE SECRETARY MEET WITH CHARUNPHAN AND AMBASSADOR ANAN IN NEW YORK. WE HAVE NOT INFORMED THE RTG OF THESE LETTERS.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN CURRENTLY PLANS TO LEAVE BANGKOK ON/ABOUT SEPTEMBER 20 AND MUST RETURN NOT LATER THAN OCTOBER 9. I ASSUME HE COULD BE IN WASHINGTON BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER HIS VISIT TO NEW YORK.

4. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT WE GRAB THIS OPPORTUNITY AND ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS FOR FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN WITH THE PRESIDENT AND/OR VICE PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE, THE SECRETARY, AND YOU. AS YOU WELL KNOW, WE CONTINUE TO NEED THE FULL COOPERATION OF THE TOP THAI LEADERSHIP TO SUPPORT THE MANY IMPORTANT U.S. ELEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES LOCATED IN THAILAND. SERIOUS QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED BY OUR THAI FRIENDS ABOUT THE ATTITUDE OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AND THE CONSTANCY OF U.S. POLICY IN THE AREA GIVEN OUR DECLINING AID LEVELS. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY CRITICAL OF OUR MILITARY PRESENCE AND OUR SUPPORT ACTIVITIES FOR DIEGO GARCIA.

5. I AM CONVINCED THAT ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET FOR CHARUNPHAN AND ENSURING THAT HE IS RECEIVED AT THE VERY HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL PAY LARGE DIVIDENDS. THOUGH NOT A STRONG LEADER, CHARUNPHAN IS RESPECTED WITHIN THE RTG AND, IN GENERAL, SEES THE SITUATION IN THE AREA MUCH AS WE DO.

6. CALLS ON THE PRESEIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE AND SECRETARY WOULD REASSURE THE THAI THAT WE CONTINUE TO PLACE A HIGH VALUE ON OUR RELATIONSHIP AND THAT OUR FOREIGN POLICY TOWARD THAILAND AND SOUTHEAST ASIA REMAINS UNCHANGED. THE CALLS WOULD ALSO DEMONSTRATE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK IN TANDEM WITH THE RTG TO ACHIEVE OUR MUTUAL OBJECTIVES IN THE AREA, THAT WE WILL CONSULT FULLY WITH THEM, THAT OUR ACTIVITIES AND PRESENCE WILL BE TAILORED TO THAI REQUIREMENTS AND, ADDITIONALLY, DEMONSTRATE U.S. SUPPORT FOR A CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT MOVING TOWARD CONSTITUTIONAL AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. FAILURE TO GRANT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BANGKO 14470 091405Z

THE REQUESTED APPOINTMENTS COULD REINFORCE DOUBTS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO OUR RELATIONS AND THE STRENGTH OF OUR COMMITMENT TO A LONG-TIME AND STEADFAST ALLY.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: YOUR HELP IN OBTAINING THESE APPOINTMENTS WOULD MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONN TO OUR CAUSE. REGARDS.
KINTNER

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NNN

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